

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
NSCE-00 H-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 /050 R

DRAFTED BY EB/AVP:GGGRIFFITHS:VLV
APPROVED BY EB/TRA:JRATWOOD
EB/AVP - AJWHITE
NEA/IAI - JMCBRIDE
CAB - MLEVINE (SUB)
EB/OA - MHSTYLES

-----099854 282246Z /61

O 282222Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IS

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - SUSPENSION OF EL AL FARE

REF: (A) STATE 89158; (B) TEL AVIV 4817; (C) TEL AVIV 4929

1. CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD HAS INSTRUCTED ITS STAFF TO
SUSPEND EL AL'S STANDBY FARE IF GOI SUSPENDS TWA'S APEX
FARE. ON ASSUMPTION THAT TWA FARE WILL BE FORMALLY DIS-
APPROVED, CAB PLANS TO SEND ORDER TO WHITE HOUSE ON MAY 1
SUSPENDING EL AL STANDBY FARE. UNLESS PRESIDENT OVERTURNS
ORDER, SUSPENSION WILL BE EFFECTIVE 10 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT
BY WHITE HOUSE.

2. CAB HAS INDICATED THAT, IF IT RECEIVES WORD FROM GOI
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THAT TWA APEX FARE WILL BE APPROVED, IT WILL RECALL ORDER
AGAINST EL AL.

3. TWA WAS ADVISED BY ISRAELIS ON APRIL 27 THAT THEY WOULD
APPROVE TWA'S STANDBY FARE (BUT NOT APEX FARE) IF CAB
APPROVED EL AL'S STANDBY FARE. THIS DEAL IS NOT ACCEPTABLE
TO CAB.

4. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO ADVISE APPROPRIATE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES OF FOLLOWING ON URGENT BASIS. SUGGEST APPROACH BE ORAL,

A. US AUTHORITIES ARE CONCERNED THAT ISRAEL APPARENTLY INTENDS NOT TO ALLOW TWA TO OFFER APEX FARE.

B. THIS ACTION DOES NOT FOREBODE WELL FOR MUTUALLY AGREED OBJECTIVE IN UPCOMING CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS TO ESTABLISH A COMPETITIVE AVIATION ENVIRONMENT. ISRAEL HAS BEEN PRESSING FOR EARLIER, RATHER THAN LATER, DATE FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS FROM WHICH ISRAEL STANDS OBTAIN SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS. (LETTER JUST RECEIVED BY DEPT FROM ECONOMIC COUNSELOR RAFF, WHICH RESPONDS TO PAPER GIVEN ISRAELI EMBASSY ON MARCH 22--STATE 74547--SAYS THAT "GOI WOULD BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS WITH USG ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRULY COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR CONDUCT OF AVIATION SERVICES" AND "BELIEVES SUCH DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE AS BROAD AS POSSIBLE ENCOMPASSING LOW FARES, ETC.")

C. CAB HAS DECIDED SUSPEND EL AL'S STANDBY FARE IF ISRAELIS DISAPPROVE TWA'S APEX FARE. (PROCEDURAL SITUATION CAN BE DESCRIBED AS IN PARAS 1-3 ABOVE.)

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D. WE THEREFORE URGE THAT ISRAEL RECONSIDER AND PROMPTLY APPROVE TWA APEX FARE. VANCE

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